

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The allowance of Claims 1 and 6-8 and the indication of allowability of Claims 12, 14, 16-20, and 23 are appreciated. Applicants are presenting a number of amendments to the claims in a good faith attempt to facilitate allowance of this application and to avoid an appeal. It is believed that none of these amendments will require a new search or consideration since they are merely putting all claims into condition for allowance as suggested by the Office Action. No new issues should be raised since the claim subject matter has been previously evaluated. Entry of the amendments and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

In particular, Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate some of the subject matter of cancelled Claim 13 with the additional definition of R_2 from allowable Claim 14. Claim 14 has been appropriately amended to recite preferred definitions of p and R_3 . Claim 15 has been amended to have the same definition of thermally sensitive compounds as amended Claim 9. Allowable Claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 9-11, 13, 15, and 22 have been rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,427,758 (Quinn). As far as it applies to claims presently in this application, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicants disagree with this rejection on the merits, they have amended Claims 9 and 15 to define the thermally sensitive compounds in a way that excludes the bisulfite adducts described in Quinn, specifically with the definition of R_2 as $-HNR_3$. Thus, Claims 9 and 15 are believed to be novel over Quinn, along with the claims dependent thereon.

For these reasons, the rejection under Section 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 9-11, 13, 15, and 22 also have been rejected as unpatentable over Quinn. As far as it applies to claims presently in this application, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants believe that their claimed imaging member is patentable over the teaching in Quinn. First of all, Applicant's claimed imaging members and printing plates are patentable because they now define the thermally sensitive members in terms of allowable subject matter.

In addition, with respect to the claimed imaging members, Applicants respectfully submit that Quinn does not teach or suggest Applicants' claimed negative-working thermally sensitive imaging member that has a single imaging layer that is imaged using thermal energy. Quinn teaches a positive-working element that has two essential layers for providing a positive image from photoexposure. One layer is a photopolymerizable material and the other contains a hardener. Through a series of photoexposure, development, and washing steps, a positive image is obtained. This is not suggestive of Applicants' very different thermally sensitive imaging material that contains all imaging components in a single layer that is responsive to thermal energy to provide a negative image. Thus, the rejection of the imaging member claims remaining in this application should be withdrawn.

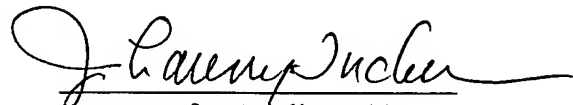
Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112(2)

Claims 15 and 21 have been rejected as being indefinite. Applicants believe that Claim 22 is meant instead of cancelled Claim 21. However, both Claims 15 and 22 now contain appropriate definitions of R₁-R₄, M, p, and n, obviating this rejection.

Claims 12, 14, 16-20, and 23 are believed to be allowable also as they are now dependent upon other allowable claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all issues have been properly addressed and reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested. A prompt and favorable action by the examiner is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Lanny Tucker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.